



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Questions on Work Status Last Year (P- 33-34)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT WORK STATUS LAST YEAR

- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to determine health care needs and how to deliver services.
- The Department of Justice uses these data to determine how groups are represented in the employer's workforce and to combat discrimination.
- The Veterans Benefits Administration uses these data in evaluating the performance of local employment offices.
- Corporations and individuals use these data to develop business plans and to determine demographic characteristics of an area where they plan to start a business.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT WORK STATUS LAST YEAR

- Civil Rights Act
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- Workforce Investment Act of 1998

QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

33 During the PAST 12 MONTHS, how many WEEKS did this person work? Count paid vacation, paid sick leave, and military service.

Weeks

34 During the PAST 12 MONTHS, in the WEEKS WORKED, how many hours did this person usually work each WEEK?

Usual hours worked each WEEK

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Questions on Work Status Last Year (P- 33-34)

HISTORY OF THE WORK STATUS LAST YEAR QUESTIONS

- Questions on work status last year have been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The questions about work status last year help put earnings data into perspective. Since all information related to income refers to the past calendar year, the information about work status last year is necessary to approximate hourly and weekly earnings. This information makes it possible to take into account differences in work input (e.g. full time, part time, full year, part year) when making income comparisons among various groups. Questions about the number of weeks worked and the usual hours worked also are used to assign values to missing responses to the questions about earnings.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions